POSTMODERN LITERARY AESTHETICS OF EXPLORATION AND RESISTANCE IN THE SELECT TEXTS OF PREETI SHENOY

A SYNOPSIS

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1. INTRODUCTION

Postmodernism is an indicative effect of modernism in all fields, especially art and literature. These connotations are visible in fiction. In the postmodern age, fiction has been filled with postmodern perspectives. The famous philosopher and theorist, Jean Francois Lyotard abbreviated postmodernism as "I have said and will say again that 'post-modernism' signifies not the end of modernism, but another relation to modernism" [1]. He notifies that postmodernism is not the end of modernism, and post-modernism is considered as related or developed, or next to modernism. Postmodernism is a wide area of explanation and deals with many fields such as literature, architecture, fashion, sociology, culture, art, etc. Postmodernism has been scrutinized as an appendage of modernism [2]. The famous writer, Lyon, abbreviates, "Postmodernism is a multi-layered concept that alerts us to a variety of major social and cultural changes taking place at the end of 20th century within many advanced societies" [3]. Postmodernism is a single term that consists of such wide areas. Steven Connor abbreviates postmodernism as tending to focus on one kind of writing, narrative fiction [4]. The postmodern era begins with so many changes in all the fields, especially arts and literature. In literature, many writers explore the postmodern aspects in their writings. Jurgen Habermas mentions, "[…] postmodernists explore the beginnings, ambivalences, histories, subjects, fallacies, and contradictions of postmodernism" [5]. These ideas explore in literature in the form of poems, short stories, fiction, etc. The notable writer, Connor, abbreviates postmodern fiction as "Postmodernist fiction responds with narrative structures and processes that seek to ramify rather than to resist this general interruptiveness" [4].

Many postmodern tendencies include magical realism, parody, deconstruction, fabulation, pastiche, historiography, fragmentation, buffy studies, maximalism, minimalism, technoculture, and globalization. After the 1980s, all the works have postmodern tendencies. Likewise, Preeti Shenoy's works also have aspects of postmodern perspectives. Preeti Shenoy is a famous Indian writer in English. She was born on 21 December 1971 in India. She has written the following works,*34 Bubble Gums and Candies* (2008), *Life is What You Make It* (2011), *Tea for Two and a Piece of Cake* (2012), *The Secret Wish List* (2012), *The One You Cannot Have* (2013), *It Happens for a Reason* (2014), *It's all in the Planets* (2016), *A Hundred Little*

Flames(2017), *The Rule Breakers* (2018), and *Wake Up, Life is Calling* (2019). She has been nominated for the 'Forbes List of the 100 most influential Celebrities in India since 2013. She received notable awards like the 'Indian of the Year Award' and 'Business Excellence Award' related to her life before and after marriage.

In this research, the considered five postmodern perspectives are investigated. They are paranoia, intertextuality, liberal feminism, metanarrative and metafiction. Firstly, paranoia is a thought process related to the mental condition of an individual. It is explored through writings in many ways such as disorder, depression, suicide, hallucination, societal pressure, schizophrenia, etc. Secondly, intertextuality is influential of a text's meaning by another text, and it may be the representation of using the strategy of quotes, incidents, ideas, characters, scenes, images, etc. sometimes, it seems a replica of other texts. Thirdly, liberal feminism deals with achieving gender equality in a family doctrine through political and legal construction of democracy. It highlights the power of a person, and it is otherwise known as 'mainstream feminism'. Fourthly, the metanarrative explicates in the text by representing characters, scenes, ideas, and so on. The evolution of metanarrative hooks up with other works of art, especially through dialect, considered language games. Fifthly, metafiction relates to the self-conscious narration. The characteristics of metafiction are to break the boundary between the writer and reader, self-reflexive, and experimental, and it is an exploration of ideas such as language, storytelling, the writer's real experience, and interpretation of some issue. These five postmodern perspectives have been rendered in Shenoy's works. In addition, all five postmodern tendencies evaluate by the theories proposed by different theorists.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

This research concerns only five postmodern tendencies. They are paranoia, intertextuality, liberal feminism, metanarrative and metafiction. Regarding these perspectives, the literature review has identified a research gap between the postmodern perspectives and different theories.

2.1. Paranoia

Many researchers investigated that postmodernism is a wide area movement and comprises various tendencies. The study by Farooq and Edward [6] states the syndrome that is in Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. The phrase syndrome

covers disorder, illusions, epilepsy, and mania. These aspects have projected on only the protagonist, Alice. The authors listed some novels related to the syndrome. The study of Saxby and William [7] analyzes the behaviors related to suicide in Dostoyevsky's novels: *Crime and Punishment*, *The Idiot*, and *The Brothers Karamazov*. The authors mention different methods of suicide like drowning, hanging, shooting, cutting, and so on. The authors have collected the data from the texts regarding suicide attempts. The study of Olehla [8] investigates paranoia and insanity in Pynchon's *The Crying of Lot 49*. The author scrutinizes two types of paranoia in Pynchon's work. They are cultural paranoia and linguistic paranoia. For these types, the author utilizes Lacan's paranoid theory. The study of Nicol [9] attributes paranoia in postmodern texts: *Gravity's Rainbow*, *Foucault's Pendulum*, *The White Hotel*, *Pale Fire*, and *City of Glass*. These works have been analyzed by the paranoid theories of Freud, Barthes, and Lyotard. The study of Nodelman [10] analyzes paranoia in Cormier's *The Chocolate War*. The Character of Jerry's father feels very bad because he cannot sell the candies. Therefore, he is in a state of depression. For this reason, Nodelman utilizes Freud's theory to illustrate the mindset of Jerry's father. Therefore, it has been acclaimed that Shenoy's texts have paranoid aspects. It can be substantiated through paranoia theories.

2.2. Intertextuality

The study Zengin [11] abbreviates intertextuality in T.S.Eliot's "Tradition and the Individual Talent". The author points out Eliot's work filled the concepts of modernism, especially 'The Egoist'. Eliot projected tradition and culture during the modern age and is also an intertextual aspect. For this study, the author has utilized the intertextual theories of Bakhtin, Kristeva, and Barthes. The study of Eshreteh and Khalil [12] states intertextuality in William Blake's companion poems: "The Lamb" and The Tyger". The authors mention that there are 22 ideas related to religious aspects, especially allusions. The authors adopted Bazerman's and Kristeva's intertextual theories for this study. The study of Ozyon [13] abbreviates intertextuality in three different texts: Jordan's *When She Woke*, Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, and Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*. The first two novels werewritten in a dystopian world. Therefore, these two texts are connected with intertexts aspects. In this study, the author has used Allen's intertextuality theory to analyze intertextual elements in

three different texts. The study of Rahbek [14] affirms that Marion Halligan's *Spider Cup* is intertextual with Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*. Rahbek compares the character of Elionor in *Spider Cup* with Leontes in *The Winter's Tale* through the personality of jealousy. For this study, the author has employed Judith Still's intertextuality theory to investigate the intertextual aspects of Halligan's text. The same theory has been applied in the study of Juvan [15]. In this study, the author mentions intertextuality in cultural studies because many texts deal with aspects like borrowing ideas and replicas in a text. Cconsequently, it has been noted that Shenoy's texts have intertextual aspects. It can be proved through intertextual theories.

2.3. Liberal Feminism

The study of Karim [16] states liberal feminism in Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye.*The writer Toni Morrison has projected the aspect of liberal feminism through the protagonist, Pecola Breedlove. She has overcome many sufferings and is liberated.Karim mentions the racial and gender inequality of African American women. The study of Foley [17] abbreviates liberal feminism in Weldon's *Praxis*. In this novel, Praxis is the protagonist whose dreams are shattered by her husband. After this, Praxis left her patriarchal family setting and led an independent life. In this study, Foley points out the stages of women and employsthe liberal feminism theories of Stuart Mill and Okin.The study of Rottenberg [18] affirms liberal feminism in USA and two books: Sandberg's *Lean In* and Slaughter's *Why Woman Still Can't Have It All*. Rottenberg's focal points on Sandberg's three phases. They are internalizing revolution, lean in, and leadership ambition gap. The author highlights the coming out of neoliberal feminism especially engenders inequality.The author utilized Einstein's liberal feminism theory to analyze two texts in this study. The study of Delukman [19] abbreviates liberal feminism in Helen Garner's *Monkey Grip*. In this novel, Nora is the narrator, whose daughter's name is Javo. She faces many problems in her marriage life and wants to lead an independent and public life. The study of Mayabadi [20] mentions liberal feminism in Thomas Hardy. He pointed out liberal feminism in *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* and *Jude the Obscure*. The author Mayabadi compares Hardy's two works under liberal feminism concepts through two protagonists: Tess and Sue. In this study, the author has employed John Stuart Mill's liberal feminism

theory. Thus, it has been identified that Shenoy's texts have aspects of liberal feminism. It can be proved through liberal feminist theories.

2.4. Metanarrative

The study of Verma and Mishra [21] states little narratives in Charlie Chaplin's *The Little Tramp*. In this movie, Chaplin enacted a Tramp character who always makes fun and makes people laugh. This character is edified as the character of Yank in *The Hairy Ape*. In this study, the authors utilized Lyotard's metanarrative theory. The study of Neuse [22] investigates littlenarratives in Chaucer's "The Monk's Tale". The author points out the sequential in this tale and employed biblical ideas. The character of Monk is not superficial and seems to be traditional. Chaucer projected the world's notable culture on Monk's character. Neuse mentions the narrative style of Chaucer. He highlighted the ideas based on religious and historical events. For this study, Neuse employed Lyotard's metanarrative theory to illustrate the style of Chaucer in his tale. The study of Smuda [23] analyzes the developments and truth of metanarrative. Smuda abbreviates religious interpretation in John Fowles's novels: *The French Lieutenant's Woman* and *A Maggot*. The ideas related to victorian society are projected on the protagonists: Sarah and Ernestina. In this study, the author has taken up Lyotard's metanarrative theory. The study of Romylos [24] mentions metanarrative as a Christian theme in John Irving's *A Prayer for Owen Meany*. This story acquaints the life of John Wheelright and his comrade Owen Meany.In this fiction, themes related to Christianityare reflected in McEwan's *Atonement*. In this study, Romylos has utilized Lyotard's grand narratives and their two types. They are a speculative narration of emancipation, especially the concept of language games.The author highlights Lyotard's 'paralogy'. The study of Baker [25] investigates metanarrative elements in four novels: Reade's *VeryHard Cash*, Wood's *East Lynne*, Collins' *The Woman in White*, and Braddon's *TheTrail of the Serpent*. The author elucidates diegetic action in four novels. In this study, the author, Baker, employed Genette's metanarrative theory. She has comprised all four novels into the content narration. The study of Salma [26] investigates metanarratives in the works of Barnes and Flaubert. In *Metroland*, Barnes satirized the streets and places in London. This novel concentrates on language and tradition.The notable works of Flaubert are *Parrot, A History of the World in 101/2 Chapters*, and *England, England*. This novel

reveals the story of Martha Cochrane's life story and is categorized into three parts. 'England, England' is the name of a theme park on the Isle of Wight. In this study, the author has employed Lyotard's metanarrative theory. Accordingly, it has been observed that Shenoy's texts have the elements of metanarrative. It can be corroborated through metanarrative theories.

2.5. Metafiction

The study of Masemola [27] corroborates metafiction in Fred Khumalo's *Touch my Blood* and *Seven Steps to Heaven* through allochthonous memory. This aspect has been projected on the protagonist, Fred Khumalo. The metafiction element of transitional characters from Canada, South Africa, and Zimbabwe has been employed in the novel. In this study, the author has utilized Hutcheon's metafiction theory to exemplify metafiction in two novels. The study of Tunca [28] deals with metafiction in Adichie's "Jumping Monkey Hill". The author, Tunca, points out reality and fiction through self-reflexive eminence and mentions that 'Monkey Valley Resort' is the name of the resort where the workshop was held. In that workshop, the writer Adichie received the 'Caine Prize' for African writing in 2003. In "Jumping Monkey Hill", Adichie abbreviates 'a resort to easy stereotypes of Westerners, and it is a complaint of a reviewer. This same text is a replica of Wainaina's "How to Write about Africa". For this study, the author has employed two metafiction theories of Hutcheon and Mark Currie. The study of Johnston [29] states metafictional ideas contribute to Jennifer Egan's *A Visit from the Goon Squad*. This novel depicts reality and fiction. Moreover, the writer imitates 'the symbiotic relationship between the profile industry and celebrity culture'. Bennie Salazar is one of the characters in this novel who blames the music. Many incidents and names are connected with postmodern metafictional elements in Egan's work. In this study, the author utilizes the metafiction theories of Linda Hutcheon and Patricia Waugh. The study of Kevin [30] explicates the postmodern perspective of metafiction in David Mitchell's *Cloud Atlas* through the narrative style. In this fiction, the writer has written the text's structure as a story within the story and projected the story fiction to reality. For this study, the author utilizes Robert Scholes' metafiction theory. The study of Donnelly [31] illustrates metafiction in Naipaul's *The Enigma of Arrival* and Wicomb's *You Can't Get Lost in Cape Town*. These two works are based on cultural formations. In

The Enigma of Arrival, Naipaul, as a narrator, shares his journey experience to England. This book reveals the story of the writer's growth from childhood through adulthood. In this study, the author employs both Hutcheon and Waugh's metafiction theories. Consequently, it has been identified that Shenoy's texts have metafictional elements. It can be substantiated through metafiction theories.

2.6. Outcomes of the literature review

The literature review shows the five postmodern perspectives of different studies conducted by various authors. All the studies have utilized the postmodern theories proposed by different theorists. It is identified that no such study has been conducted on the postmodern tendencies of paranoia, intertextuality, liberal feminism, metanarrative and metafiction in the select texts of Preeti Shenoy. It is identified that there is a research gap in the reviewed literature. Thus, it motivates the researcher to investigate and scrutinize the proposed five postmodern aspects in the select texts of Preeti Shenoy. This research will bridge the subsist research. Considering this, the researcher has proposed the following objectives.

3. OBJECTIVES

The present research work has assessed the postmodern tendencies in Preeti Shenoy's select texts. The objectives of the present study are:

1. To identify paranoia in Preeti Shenoy's *Life is What You Make It* and *Wake Up Life is Calling*.
2. To explore intertextuality in Preeti Shenoy's *Life is What You Make It*, *It Happens for a Reason* and *A Hundred Little Flames*.
3. To elucidate liberal feminism in Preeti Shenoy's *The Secret Wish List*, *Tea for Two and a Piece of Cake*, and *It Happens for a Reason*.
4. To analyze metanarrative in Preeti Shenoy's *Life is What You Make It*, *The Secret Wish List*, and *A Hundred Little Flames*.
5. To investigate metafiction in Preeti Shenoy's *The Secret Wish List* and *It Happens for a Reason*.

4. METHODOLOGY – ADAPTATION OF THEORIES

Karl Menninger is a well-known writer, and he mentions, "a theory will lead to confirmation or rejection" [32]. The theory is the main component of this research

using postmodern theories; it is proved that the postmodern perspectives have been rendered in Preeti Shenoy's select works.

4.1. Paranoid Theories

The postmodern perspective of paranoia has been explored in Preeti Shenoy's works, and paranoid theorists and their theories prove them. From this perspective, this research considers only five paranoid theorists and their theories. The noteworthy five paranoid theorists are Sigmund Freud, Jacques Lacan, Thomas Pynchon, and Ivan Pavlov. Firstly, this study focuses on Freud's mechanism of 'psychoanalytic theory', especially id, ego, and superego. These three categories are related to conscious, unconscious, and preconscious. Secondly, Lacan experimented with psychoanalytic aspects in infants and created the 'mirror stage theory'. This theory is categorized into three directives. They are imaginary, symbolic, and real. Thirdly, Pynchon is familiar with his 'conspiracy theory' and points out people's mental competence, especially in depression and alienation. Fourthly, Bleuler is known for 'behavior theory'. He points out the behavior and affectivity of the mind. He mentions people's mentality while interacting with someone. Fifthly, Klein's 'psychoanalytic theory is based on psychoanalysis. He abbreviates the change between the strength of mind and desolation. These five paranoid theories proposed by different theorists are applicable to Shenoy's works. In *Wake Up, Life is Calling*, Ankita feels, "It meant that nobody knew me here, nobody knew my past, nobody knew of the crazy things I had done when I had bipolar disorder. I was free to forge a new identity" [33]. Here, Ankita Sharma is the protagonist, who suffered by bipolar disorder. With the substantiation of paranoid theories, it is identified that the postmodern perspective of paranoia has been found in Shenoy's select works.

4.2. Intertextual Theories

This study aims to find the postmodern tendency of intertextuality in Preeti Shenoy's texts, such as *Life is What You Make It*, *The Secret Wish List*, and *It Happens for a Reason*. To achieve this objective, the postmodern perspective of intertextuality has been explored in Shenoy's work. Three intertextual theories are utilized and proposed by three different intertextual theorists to find the postmodern aspect of intertextuality. They are Julia Kristeva, Mikhail Bakhtin, and Roland Barthes. Firstly, Kristeva is known for her famous theories, such as macrodialogue,

microdialogue, and intertextual dialogue. Her intertextual dialogue theory deals with two axes also. They are horizontal axes and vertical axes. The horizontal axes concentrate on the subject of the text. The vertical axes abbreviate with the text of the context. Secondly, Bakhtin is known for his dialogism theory. He defines dialogue and ideas in three ways according to the quality. They are perception, appraisal, and ideological positioning. His major concept in dialogism is heteroglossia. It deals with a language of a variety of viewpoints and expresses authorial intentions. This concept highlights the combination of existing statements or speech genres to construct a text. This is related to the diversity of voices, style of discourse, or points of view in literary work. Thirdly, Barthes is known for semiology theory, and he mentions the concept of signifier and signified. A signifier refers to the word, image, or facial expression and is considered an object. Signified refers to the signifier's ideas and represents the behind the object. These different intertextual theories are related to Shenoy's works. In *Life is What You Make It*, the protagonist, Ankita Sharma, is affected by bipolar disorder [34]. This book is intertextual with Eugenides's *The Marriage Plot*. In this novel, Leonard is affected by bipolar disorder.

4.3. Liberal Feminism Theories

In this phase, the postmodern perspective of liberal feminism is analyzed in Preeti Shenoy's *The Secret Wish List, Tea for Two and a Piece of Cake,* and *It Happens for a Reason* with five liberal feminists and their theories. They are Mary Wollstonecraft's *Vindication of the Rights of Woman,* John Stuart Mill's *The Subjection of Women,* Nussbaum's *Sex and Social Justice*, Susan Moller Okin's *Justice, Gender, and Family*, and Zillah Eisenstein's *Capitalist Patriarchy and the Case of Socialist Feminism*. Firstly, Wollstonecraft abbreviates the systems for women especially educational, political, and fundamental rights for women. She highlights the educational system for women. She motivates women to develop and fight for their rights, and her major argument is for equality. Secondly, Mill argues for legal equality for men and women in *The Subjection of Women*. In this book, many chapters are there, but the chapter "On Liberty" is very important for liberal feminism, where he mentions the concepts of self, individualism, and self-development. Thirdly, Nussbaum states liberal education, justice, culture, religion, equality, and sex. She divides two sections: justice and sex. In the first section, she discusses justice concern topics such as liberty, equality, and social and economic justice for both women and

gays. In the second section, sex deals with sexuality, desire, and human life with emotion. Fourthly, Okin presents the theory of justice. In this theory, she mentions the fatal assumption of justice in the family. She highlights the power and vulnerabilities of marriage and argues the family and gender relations. She explicates that all society has gender inequalities in the family system. Fifthly, Eisenstein mentions the power of bourgeois people, and they have only to give work to the low-class people. These five theories of liberal feminism are relevant to Shenoy's works. In *The Secret Wish List*, the protagonist, Diksha recognizes herself as, "For many years, I have suppressed my desires. I have not even allowed myself the luxury of dreaming" [35]. Finally, she leaves everything and comes out from the family doctrine to fulfill her wishes. With the elucidation of liberal feminism theories, it is noted that the postmodern tendency of liberal feminism has been explored in Shenoy's select works.

4.4. Metanarrative Theories

This study aims to find metanarrative in Shenoy's works through theories of littlenarratives proposed by metanarrative theorists. From this perspective, this study considers only three metanarrative theorists. They are Jean Francois Lyotard, Mikhail Bakhtin, and Gerard Genette. Firstly, Lyotard is known for language games theory. In this theory, he points out the narrative style called 'paralogy'. It is a kind of narrative technique. He mentions metanarrative as three important aspects. They are the development of metanarrative, progress, and truth. Secondly, Mikhail Bakhtin is popular for the concept of polyphony, otherwise called 'dialogism'. In this concept, he mentions the features of narrative and diversity of viewpoints and voices. According to Bakhtin, a metanarrative consists of a double-voiced or multi-voiced concept in writing. He criticizes dialogism as the characteristic of the social world. Thirdly, Gerard Genette is popular for the narrative concept, and they are categorized as order, frequency, duration, voice, and mood. With the help of these aspects, he divides the stages in the narrative, such as the narrative of time, narrative of levels, and narrative of instance. For narratology, the fundamental things are story, narrative, and narration. In the concept of narrative, he splits into four devices. They are analepsis, prolepsis, metaelepsis, and anachrony. Genette abbreviates narration gatherings, such as directing function and communication function. The directing function is called as metanarrative function in *Narrative Discourse: An Essay in*

Method. In this method, he mentions the texts, quality, order, function, narration techniques, and voices. These three metanarrative theories are pertinent to Shenoy's works. In A *Hundred Little Flames*, Shenoy utilizes some dialects, "Yes, *muttacha*. I was born in 1989. I feel sad that I never even got to see *muttashi* (…)" [36]. Here, she has mentioned the dialect of Kerala. Through metanarrative theories, it is discovered that the postmodern aspect of metanarrative has been located in Shenoy's select works.

4.5. Metafiction Theories

The study aims to find metafiction elements in Preeti Shenoy's works with the substantiation of metafiction theories proposed by metafiction theorists. They are Patricia Waugh, Linda Hutcheon, and Mark Currie. Firstly, Waugh mentions the characteristic of metafiction is to construct fictional illusion. It splits the distinction between creation and criticism that amalgamate into the concepts of interpretation and deconstruction. Waugh expresses that metafiction is considered the convention of the novel related to the language because of fictional writing with self-consciousness. She expresses ontology status in the novel through a historical perspective. Secondly, Hutcheon classifies metafiction with three domains. They are history, fiction, and theory. She points out that historiographic metafiction produces the textual signals of reality in postmodern. Thirdly, Currie states that writers can create some issues as 'misrepresentation of issues' through their writing. Therefore, metafiction texts connect the border between fiction and criticism in the form of exploring ideas. The idea of metafiction is related to the conscious and unconscious levels of the text. The above three metafiction theories are apposite in Shenoy's works. In *It Happens for a Reason*, "Anyone who does not like dogs has to watch the movie Hachiko's Story, which is based on the real life dog, Hachiko, who has a statue erected in his honour in Japan" [37]. Here, Shenoy has expressed her own wish to the readers that to watch 'Hachiko' movie. Therefore, the postmodern perspective of metafiction has been explored in Shenoy's works with confirmation of metafiction theories.

5. Discussion

The discussion section discusses the results of existing studies with the present research. Accordingly, the results of the previous studies are compared and illustrated by Shenoy's select texts in terms of postmodern perspectives.

The study of Bukowski [38] states the shift from paranoia to schizophrenia through Oedipa Maas in Thomas Pynchon's *The Crying of Lot 49* and Lee Harvey Oswald in DeLillo's *Libra*. The author highlights the amalgamation of paranoia through schizophrenia in the above two texts. In *The Crying of Lot 49*, Oedipa Maas is trying to understand the world of the 'Tristero'plot. This trying action leads her to a state of confusion and makes alienation. Likewise, Shenoy has explored the shift from paranoia to bipolar disorder through the character of Ankita Sharma in *Life is What You Make It* and *Wakeup, Life is Calling* [33].

Nicci French [39] is a notable writer in English and he is known for the book *Catch Me When I Fall* (2005). This novel is based on a psychological thriller especially dealing with a woman affected by bipolar disorder. This novel surrounds the protagonist Holly Krauss. She is a married woman who suffers from bipolar disorder, and she undergoes psychopath. This disorder changes the life of businessperson, Krauss, and this makes her life 'self-destruction' because she attempts suicide. After the suicide attempt only, she knows that she is affected by the disorder. Similarly, the same concept has been explored in Shenoy's works: *Life is What You Make It* and *Wake Up, Life is Calling* through bipolar disorder [34]. Bipolar disorder changes and destroys the life of Ankita Sharma, just like Holly Krauss. The writers project bipolar disorder through the protagonists. Therefore, this study is connected with Nicci French's work.

The study of Larsen [40] accolades on intertextuality and development of reading skills. The author focuses on Margaret Balderson's famous English novel *When Jays Fly to Barbmo*, and this novel is intertextual with Bronte's *Jane Eyre*. Larsen signifies that there is a link between the novels of Margaret Balderson and Bronte through narrative tactics. Likewise, Shenoy's novel *A Hundred Little Flames* is intertextual with the narrative technique through Aryan (Grandson) and Ayan (Grandpa). Grandpa and grandson are the main characters and have a good flow while sharing their experience [36]. Through narrative technique, Shenoy's novel *A Hundred Little Flames* is intertextual with Roald Dahl's famous novel *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. In this novel, the characters are Charlie Bucket (Grandson) and Joe (Grandpa) [41]. The narrative techniques remain the same in both novels, except for the names of the characters. In both novels, the writers use the narrative technique

through the characters of grandpa and grandson. Thus, these two studies are similar in terms of intertextuality.

The study of Danardana [42] states liberal feminism in Oka Rusmini's *Tarian Bumi*. In this novel, the writer has explored the role of women in a patriarchal society. The author highlights the roles of women such as wives and mothers. They have only all the responsibility to take their family, but no one ready to take care of women. This is the current scenario for women. Accordingly, Shenoy has explored the same aspect through the protagonist, Diksha in *The Secret Wish List*. In this novel, she only has all the duties but no one understands her feelings [35].

Namita Gokhale [43] is a famous Indian writer who deals with the aspect of liberal feminism in her texts: *The Book of Shadows* (2001) and *Things to Leave Behind* (2016). In this novel, Tilottama is the protagonist who suffers a lot from her family members. She wants to study the subjects of English language and Mathematics, but her mother-in-law insists Tilottama do all the household activities. Therefore, she does not permit to study the subjects. Finally, Tilottama wants to fulfill her wishes and is learned both subjects. Likewise, in Shenoy's *The Secret Wish List*, Diksha is the protagonist who has many impediments in her family because no one understands her feelings about Diksha. Her only job is just doing all household activities. She writes her wishes in a diary. After some time, she decides to fulfill her wishes. Finally, she overcomes the family doctrines and fulfills her wishes on her [35]. Therefore, Indian writers explore the aspects of liberal feminism in their texts.

The study of Ashraf and Ahmed [44] explores metanarrative in two novels. They are John Bester's *Black Rain* and Kamila Shamise's *Burnt Shadows*. These two novels represent the same incidents; that happened in South Asia especially bomb incidents. The authors of this study point out the dialogue in Shamise's *Burnt Shadows* that convey religion. The main idea of Shamise is to incorporate both local and global languages. Likewise, Shenoy has explored the same religious concept in her famous fiction *A Hundred Little Flames*. She mentions 'van-vaasam', and it is a reference to the epic Ramayanam, especially Lord Ram banished to the forest known as 'van-vaasam'. This concept is related to the Hindu religion. In this novel, Shenoy

has integrated both local and global languages. The local language indicates Malayalam in *A Hundred Little Flames* [36].

Julian Barnes [45] is a famous writer in English. He is known for the best book *England, England* (1998). The title itself deals with the idea that focuses on the country of England, especially the island of Wight. This novel is classified into three sections. Martha is the protagonist whose life stories have mentioned in this fiction. The author has explicated the theme park on the island in the second section. Barnes has elucidated the flashback of Martha, who comes back from old England. He differentiated the old and new England with dialects also. The writer also explains the culture and tradition of England. Similarly, Barnes in her fiction, Shenoy has explored the same aspects. She has utilized the dialect of Malayalam through the characters of Ayan and Gopal Shankar in *A Hundred Little Flames*. They discussed the tradition of Kerala and its festivals, especially in their slang. Many dialects have been expressed in this fiction [36].

The study of Poushali Bhadury [46] explicates metafiction in Michale Ende's *The Neverending Story* (1979) and Cornelia Funke's "Inkworld trilogy" – *Inkheart* (2003), *Inkspell* (2005) and *Inkdeath* (2008). The author points out that both the writers of Ende and Funke's texts are within the limit of Waugh's self-conscious narrative concept in metafiction. The writer Funke has explored the characteristics of metatextual ideas in his work "Inkworld trilogy". In this work, Orpheus is a villain who made some impediments. Funke has explored his childhood incidents in "Inkheart" through the character of Fenoglio. These three works have mingled with the metafiction perspective. Likewise, Shenoy has utilized self-conscious narrative techniques in her works: such as *A Hundred Little Flames*, *The Secret Wish List*, and *It Happens for a Reason*. In *A Hundred Little Flames*, the metatextual idea of a relationship between grandpa and his grandson has explored [36]. The self-conscious narrative concept has been explored through the protagonist Diksha in *The Secret Wish List* and Shenoy has explored her points suggested through the protagonist [35]. The same technique can be found in the book *It Happens for a Reason*.

Ruth Ozeki [47] is an American-Canadian writer. She is known for her metafictional novel *A Tale for the Time Being* published in 2013. She is an immigrant

writer. She has explored her sufferings through the protagonist, Nao. The writer has projected the concept through two generations along with the diary. The first-generation girl mentioned everything in a diary, but this diary has washed out by a tsunami in 2011. After receiving the diary, the protagonist knows everything. In this diary, a girl has explored all the characteristics of the Japanese. Ozeki knows Japan that projected her ideas in the format of narration in fiction. Moreover, Shenoy is also an immigrant writer like Ruth Ozeki. Shenoy is well known in Indian culture. She was born in India and brought up in a foreign country. It is the main reason to projected women-centric concepts in her novels. Most of her novels indicate the name of the place related to India similar to Ozeki. Shenoy's protagonist, Nisha is practicing diary writing like Ozeki's first-generation girl. Shenoy's *A Hundred Little Flames* expresses two generations, especially when Ayan knows the Grandpa's love along with the diary [36].

6. CONCLUSION

This research draws attention to the select postmodern tendencies: paranoia, intertextuality, liberal feminism, metanarrative, and metafiction in the select works of Preeti Shenoy. In literature, these postmodern perspectives have been explored in the form of writing. Shenoy's select works are exemplified through the postmodern theories proposed by renowned theorists concerning five selected postmodern aspects. Finally, the five postmodern tendencies have been rendered in the select works of Preeti Shenoy. This research has some limitations. They are, paranoia is investigated only in two novels: *Life is What You Make It* and *Wake Up, Life is Calling*. The postmodern perspective of intertextuality is analyzed only in three novels: *Life is What You Make It*, *It Happens for a Reason*, and *A Hundred Little Flames*. Regarding liberal feminism, it is identified in only three fictions: *The Secret Wish List, Tea for Two and a Piece of Cake*, and *It Happens for a Reason*. Related to metanarrative, it is analyzed only in three novels: *Life is What You Make It, The Secret Wish List, and A Hundred Little Flames.* Concerning metafiction, it is elucidated in two fictions: *The Secret Wish List* and *It Happens for a Reason*. Though the researcher is identified the select five postmodern perspectives in the select works of Preeti Shenoy, the future research can be done in other works of Shenoy. Consequently, this research recommends future studies that research can be accomplished in the areas of cultural

disparity, male chauvinism, the role of women in the domestic sphere, philosophy of life, parental care, love, nostalgia, workaholic, betrayal, psychological barriers, ethics, and older generation versus younger generation.

7. ORGANIZATION OF THESIS

Chapter 1: A detailed introduction to the establishment of postmodernism from modernism, nuances of postmodernism, paranoia, intertextuality, liberal feminism, metanarrative, metafiction, objectives and thesis statement are elucidated in this chapter.

Chapter 2: A specified theoretical background for the five postmodern perspectives, elaborated literature review related to the select postmodern tendencies and literature gap are discussed in this chapter.

Chapter 3: Methodology part to assess the various theories related to postmodern perspectives: paranoia, intertextuality, liberal feminism, metanarrative, and metafiction are analyzed in this chapter.

Chapter 4: The results for the five postmodern perspectives are evaluated in this chapter.

Chapter 5: This chapter deals with the conclusion of the research, limitations, recommendations, and scope for future work to be done.

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